

NRO & USN REVIEWS COMPLETED

Approved For Release 2002/06/25 : CIA-RDP61S00750A000500040013-7



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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

CHL-0601

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IN REPLY REFER TO

Op-922Y3/mea  
Ser:NT-000 44  
13 MAR 1959

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From: Navy Member, AdHoc Requirements Committee  
To: Chairman, AdHoc Requirements Committee (Attn: Mr. J. REBER)

Subj: Vlone Bay, TALENT coverage of

1. It is requested that immediate consideration be given to the use of the TALENT vehicle in obtaining oblique coverage of Vlone Bay, Albania. Purpose of coverage would be to ascertain the presence of the four Soviet "W" class submarines and further to establish the extent of construction activity devoted to submarine facilities ashore. Coverage, which would require only a peripheral approach and only the immediate Vlone Bay area, is requested on a recurring basis at about a fifteen (15) day interval.
2. As a result of the Berlin situation, the Navy will implement certain actions directed by the JCS to develop an adequate defensive posture. Thus the possible interdiction of naval forces in the Mediterranean becomes of increased importance to CNO, CINCNELM and the SIXTHFLT. Deployment of Soviet submarines from all Soviet bases will be under surveillance, but the use of the TALENT vehicle appears to be the best adaptable for those Soviet submarines (the latest modification of the "W" class) in Vlone Bay, Albania. Other possible sources of intelligence on the subject have been checked and cannot provide the information needed at this time. In addition, the possibility<sup>that</sup> the requested coverage would be of real value in providing information for the SIXTHFLT in the event that the continuing instability in the Middle East results in a crisis involving U.S. naval forces.
3. As regards the construction activity noted on the last TALENT Mission (28 January), the degree of capability to support submarines also is important. Further coverage would provide such information, possibly providing evidence that support capability is greater than that required for four submarines indicating future force augmentation. A point for consideration is the fact that Albania's position as a Soviet satellite makes reaction to Soviet requirements for submarine operations in the Mediterranean almost automatic. Submarine operations out of Albania would, therefore, be quite a bit different from those out of Alexandria in terms of responsiveness and control.
4. The prospective CINCNELM has requested adequate TALENT coverage of Vlone as outlined in paragraph 1. above. This request was made with full appreciation of the problems involved and an awareness of the limitations of other intelligence collection capabilities.

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5. This request will be terminated in the event that any other adequate intelligence collection capability becomes available.

*Jm Larsen*  
J. M. LARSEN  
By direction

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